

WHV – The Eighth Wonder of the World Maasai Mara Game Reserve and the Maasai Three Rites of Passage Project

The African Great Rift Valley - The Maasai Mara, Kenya

PROJECT DATES

Mixed property inscribed on the Tentative list (2010)

04 - 14 August 2025

THE SITE - The National Reserve is Kenya's most-visited protected area, world famous for its high density of herbivores and predators, and the annual migrations of Wildebeest, *Connochaetes taurinus*. The Maasai community living adjacent to the reserve has for many years lived in peace with the wildlife, their land use practice has until recently been strictly pastoralism that conquers with wildlife conservation. The annual wildebeest and plains zebra migration from the Serengeti to the Maasai Mara National Reserve is the only migration of its kind in the world.

OBJECTIVES - The project intends to consolidate the collaboration with the Maasai community, preserve and raise awareness of their cultures, and enhance their wildlife protection efforts at the Maasai Mara Game reserve adjacent to their dwelling places.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will partake in the construction of Manyattas (Maasai houses), during which they will learn the traditional building methods and discuss with the local communities on wildlife preservation and protection. Other immersive cultural experiences will include beading, Isukuti dance, and three rites of passage of the Maasai community. In addition, the volunteers will join the educational nature walk and bio-diversity monitoring activity to discover animal paths, breeding points and wildlife behaviour, and facilitate awareness-raising programmes on heritage preservation and promotion at schools.

PARTNERS - Maasai Youth group, Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, Kenya Wildlife Service, Oloisukut Wildlife Conservancy Local authorities, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, local chiefs.

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